

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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O P 220803Z SEP 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2688

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 10293

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PINR, KE

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ACTING KENYAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. JAMES CHARLES NAKWANGA OSOGO; PHONECTIC OH SOHGO.

2. MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND ACTION FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER.

4. JAMES OSOGO, 44, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, HAS BEEN MINISTER FOR
HEALTH SINCE 1974. PRIOR TO THAT HE WAS MINISTER FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (1973-74), MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (1969-73), AND
MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (1966-69). IN THE
ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI HE SERVES CONCURRENTLY AS
ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. WAIYAKI LEFT KENYA TO ATTEND THE UNGA
A FEW DAYS AGO.

5. OSOGO IS A MEMBER OF THE ABALUHYA TRIBE, THE THIRD LARGEST
IN KENYA. TO SOME DEGREE HE OWES HIS LONGEVITY IN THE CABINET
TO PERSONAL CHARM. HE IS REGARDED AS SOMEWHAT INEFFECTUAL AND
HAS NEVER BEEN ONE OF PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S CLOSE ADVISORS.
NEVERTHELESS, HIS PRESENCE IN THE CABINET AS A ABALUHYA HAS
HELPED BALANCE THE TRIBAL GROUPS THERE, WHICH IS ONE OF KENYATTA'S
PENCHANTS. HE HAS LITTLE BACKGROUND IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IS NOT
CONSIDERED KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. MARRIED,
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OSOGO HAS AT LEAST TWO CHILDREN. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, SWAHILI AND

TRIBAL LANGUAGES.

6. OSOGO WILL MEET THE SECRETARY AT THE AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL.
HE WILL ALSO ACCOMPANY THE SECRETARY TO AND FROM NAKURU BY POLICE
AIRCRAFT.
MARSHALL

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